

COMMISSIONERS ARRIVE AT
FONTAINEBLEAU. 19

requested to be accompanied to the place of embarkation by a Commissioner from each of the Allied powers. Count Schouwaloff was appointed by Russia, Colonel Neil Campbell by England, General Kohler by Austria, and Count Wald-bourg-Truchess by Prussia. On the 16th the four Commissioners came for the first time to Fontainebleau, where the Emperor, who was still attended by Generals Drouot and Bertraiid, gave to each a private audience on the following day.

Though Napoleon received with coldness the Commissioners whom he had himself solicited, yet that coldness was far from being manifested in an equal degree to all. He who experienced the best reception was Colonel Campbell, apparently because his person exhibited traces of wounds. Napoleon asked him in what battles he had received them, and on what occasions he had been invested with the orders he wore. He next questioned him as to the place of his birth, and Colonel Campbell having answered that he was a Scotchman, Napoleon congratulated him on being the countryman of Ossian, his favorite author, with whose poetry, however, he was only acquainted through the medium of wretched translations.¹ On this first audience Napoleon said to the Colonel, "I have cordially hated the English. I have made war against you by every possible means, but I esteem your nation. I am convinced that there is more generosity in your Government than in any other. I should like to be conveyed from Toulon to Elba by an English frigate."²

The Austrian and Kussian Commissioners were received coolly, but without any marked indications of displeasure. It was not so with the Prussian Commissioner, to whom he

has always denied having seen Maubreuil, but other people saw him, and it is difficult to doubt that there really was a council where was discussed the proposal of M. Maubreuil to get rid of Napoleon. Even the speeches are quoted. As for M. de Talleyrand, he was certainly not a man to command such an act, but no more was he a man to discourage it. If necessary he could ignore it" (Sainte-Beuve, *Talleyrand* p. 123).

The French translations of Ossian may be wretched enough, but as an Italian Bonaparte was probably well acquainted with the magnificent version of the Abate Cesarotti. — *Editor of 1836 edition.*

² Colonel Campbell wrote to Lord Castlereagh to acquaint him with Napoleon's wish, to which his lordship acceded (*Campbell*) p. 160).